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## SUPPORTING LOCAL MUSICIANS



PHOTO BY DEBORAH KARSON

Performers Aaron Bear and Josh Mentzer share an interesting moment in between sets during a performance on July 24 at the Wenham Street Cinema. The unique production is partnership between Wenham and Light of Day Records and is meant to support local musicians through the tough times of this pandemic. Donations are encouraged and the next collaboration will be on Aug. 28. See Page 20 for more photos.

## Community listening session held regarding dogs in First Church burial ground

BY LAUREN BENNETT

With the lack of official dog parks in the neighborhood, some JP residents have taken to using the burial ground at the First Church in Jamaica Plain to exercise their dogs. Other residents are upset with this, saying they do not believe dogs belong in the burial ground and are causing

disruption to abutters.

The First Church in Jamaica Plain held a community meeting on July 29 to hear both sides of the issue. Nearly 70 residents came out to listen and express their opinion on the matter.

Leslie McClain from the First Church's Governing Board said that the goal is to "move away

from the belief that there are only two sides to this issue." She added that the board would not be making any decisions at the meeting. "We are here to listen to the voices of our community," she said. "Your participation is an important part of our decision making."

Continued on page 7

## Inbox Appeal

Mayoral candidates use e-mail inundation this time for fundraising and exposure

BY SETH DANIEL

There's one way this summer to know that the end of the month is coming – and that is by the inundation of fundraising e-mails that storm inboxes from all five major mayoral candidates appealing for financial help with personal stories, outrages of the day or simply pushing the narrative that time is running out to meet important goals.

One e-mail address from this newspaper that has the attention of all five major mayoral candidates got approximately 35

e-mails in two days from the candidates' digital fundraising operations at the end of last month – each using the address-ee's first name and seemingly knowing some details about the owner of that address. While such operations have been common on the federal and state level for some time, this is the first open-seat mayoral race with numerous candidates since 2013, and so it's also the first time that new technology like e-mail digital fundraising operations have

Continued on page 8

## JP crime rate declines

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, Aug. 5, District E-13 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) presented its monthly virtual police and community relations meeting, where it shared the most recent crime statistics compiled by the Boston Regional Intelligence Center.

One chart examined Part One crime data. Part One crimes are more serious in nature, and don't include vandalism, drug dealing

or other minor crimes.

According to the chart, Part One crime in JP is down 29 percent compared to this time last year, beating the citywide reduction of 16 percent. Only 334 crimes were reported this year, compared to 473 in 2020.

Significantly, most crimes have seen a decrease, including homicide, robbery, assault, burglary, and larceny. Only auto theft saw

Continued on page 3

## JP en quinto lugar en tiroteos

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 5 de agosto, el Distrito E-13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston (BPD) presentó su reunión mensual de relaciones comunitarias, donde compartió las estadísticas delictivas com-

piladas por el Boston Regional Intelligence Center.

Un gráfico examinó los datos de delitos de la Primera Parte. Los delitos de la Primera Parte son de naturaleza más grave y

Continued on page 3

# Supt. Cassellius addresses expired licensure; will take test Aug. 14

BY SETH DANIEL

Supt. Brenda Cassellius apologized to the School Committee at the Aug. 4 meeting for letting her superintendent's license expire on July 31, and pledged to take the licensing exam on Aug. 14 to bring her into the proper certification.

The news was first reported by the Boston Globe last week, noting that Cassellius' temporary and emergency superintendent's license had expired on July 31. When informed, Cassellius said she wasn't aware of it, and there had been a misunderstanding of the emergency licensure rules.

"There is news about my license and I'd like to personally apologize to the School Committee chair and vice chair and members that I allowed my license to expire," she said. "There was a misunderstanding between me and my team about the category of a temporary or emergency license – and the emergency licenses given during the pandemic. As you know I came from Minnesota. I was a fully licensed educator and superintendent and have been so for 30-plus years. I intended to take the exam in my first year, but as you know we shifted to support our students and families during the pandemic. I devoted my full attention to addressing the health crisis and

the license requirements were waived during the time of the pandemic."

Cassellius said the pandemic response is still her focus, as well as getting school re-opened in September. She said she has been in contact with the state Education Commissioner about the situation, and is finding out if there will have to be an interim superintendent put in place until she takes the test on Aug. 14, and then finds out the results later.

"I have in fact scheduled the test for Saturday, Aug. 14," she said. "I take this very seriously and I am resolved to complete this task immediately so it's not a distraction... We have a school opening in a few weeks and we cannot afford any delays in ensuring the health and safety of our children, making sure our teachers and school leaders have what they need. I apologize for this distraction."

School Committeeman Ernani DeAraujo said he was disappointed in himself and the School's infrastructure for not finding this issue and informing the Committee when Cassellius' contract was renewed in June.

"So, we may need to be prepared for an interim if that's not successful," he said of her taking the test this weekend. "I think this is a very significant disclosure. We evaluated the su-

perintendent and from my perspective, I presumed when I read the contract those requirements were met in terms of licensure. That clearly wasn't the case. At what point should we have asked those questions and done our own due diligence during the evaluation process? Clearly we didn't do that and that's a very key piece of information. I understand the superintendent's response, but for us as a Committee, that's pretty fundamental and we did miss that."

Chair Jeri Robinson said she was also disappointed, and called for a checklist of basic items to be presented by the Administration when doing evaluations.

"The licensure of all staff is the responsibility of the Human Resources Department and it was our assumption that was being taken care of by them," she said. "They have usually alerted us that there was an issue, and since there was none, the assumption was that everything was in place... Since we have just learned this, we are now taking the steps relevant to moving forward. I would agree with you this is a lesson learned for all of us that even though there are assumptions we should have a checklist to make sure all these things are in place and we did not."

School Committeeman Michael O'Neill said it was a distraction from the immediate work, but did expect Cassellius to clear it up quickly.

"Upon reflection I appreciate the superintendent talking about her licensing issue," he said. "It is a unnecessary distraction unfortunately, and I'm sorry there appears to be miscommunication or misinterpretation of the emergency waivers versus the temporary waivers... When we voted in June on your contract you were in compliance and this just happened as of July 31, but it's something that could

have been taken care of ahead of time with the right information. I appreciate, like many of our students and our teachers, you have to take a make-up exam. I have no doubt you'll pass with flying colors."

Cassellius said she would inform the Committee about whether she can remain superintendent while waiting to take the test and to get the results. That is something, she said, that state and City attorneys are studying.

## •SUMMER PROGRAM NOT AS ROBUST AS EXPECTED

The Summer Stuff program meant to accelerate learning and fun this summer for thousands of Boston Public Schools (BPS) students did not necessarily achieve its lofty goals, school officials and Committee members said at the Aug. 4 meeting.

The schools used an influx of funding and partnerships to create what they hoped would be a groundbreaking summer session of learning, fun and activity for students this summer – hoping to have as many as 80 percent of the district's 52,000 students participating in some program.

In the end, there were robust programs for many students, but only 13,000 participated and parents complained that the hours of the programs were limiting and the lack of transportation was a major barrier.

There was also a need for better outreach, Cassellius said.

School Committeeman DeAraujo said he had an embarrassing moment this summer when visiting one of the programs, and it was said there was no transportation. He said he believed there was, only to find out that he was wrong.

"Of course I followed up and there was only transportation for a certain subset of kids," he said. "I don't know if I misheard or misunderstood, but my understanding from the beginning was transportation would be provided and I don't want that to happen again. We kind of promised the world because we had had resources, and what we delivered, even if it was strong for the subset of families able to access it, there's a real disconnect there. As a Committee member, I need to learn how to prevent that from happening going forward if I can."

•FEDERAL FUNDING PLAN  
The ESSER 2 federal fund-

ing plan was submitted to the state on July 30 after a number of public meetings and district roundtables – as well as discussions by school leaders at the community level.

In the plan, Cassellius said \$61.5 million would be going directly to school communities for them to determine the best uses within the guidelines. This is the second of three distributions of monies from the federal government, with the larger ESSER 3 funding coming in the fall and to be used in 2022.

For ESSER 2, the three priorities identified included social/emotional supports, academic acceleration and recovery, and facility improvements.

"We have also got a lot of feedback about facility improvements," she said.

The facility improvements identified included installing air conditioner units in every classroom that does not currently have a/c, tracking air quality, investing in libraries, and upgrading access to drinking water.

## •BACK TO SCHOOL UPDATE

Supt. Cassellius said her team has taken no breaks in planning for the September return to school.

"We have taken no breaks and have been planning all summer for the return to school," she said. "We want the message this year to be about joy, about community and re-connecting and accelerating learning, understanding the last 18 months will take far longer to overcome. Yes, there will be COVID protocols in place, but we want to make sure our focus is on creating an excellent student experience for our students."

She said students would likely be in masks, and there would be a much different rhythm to the school day – including special times made for social/emotional discussions and limited time working on a computer. She said they will be stressing masks, vaccines and testing.

"Working with our public health officials, we want our topline message to be that the best approach to a safe school year is mask, vaccines and testing," she said. "Those are the three most effective methods we have to stopping the spread of COVID in our schools and you'll hear those three things repeated often."

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## Crime

*Continued from page 1*

an increase over this time last year. The incidence of rape remained the same.

Another graph showed the number of fatal and nonfatal shootings over the past three years. Historically, Boston has seen a rise in shootings during the summer. In July of 2020, it had 48 shootings, the highest monthly number in fifteen years.

Despite the warmer weather, shootings in the city are down

24 percent compared to last year, and JP has seen a 43 percent decrease. However, out of the twelve precincts, E-13 currently ranks fifth in shootings, after Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester and South Boston.

The police and community relations meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of local law enforcement. It is held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm on Zoom. The next meeting will be on Sept. 2. All members of the public interested in public safety are encouraged to attend.

## Tiroteos

*Continued from page 1*

no incluyen el vandalismo, el tráfico de drogas u otros delitos menores.

Según el gráfico, los delitos de la Primera Parte en JP han bajado un 29 por ciento en comparación con esta época del año pasado, superando la reducción de la ciudad del 16 por ciento. Solo se denunciaron 334 delitos este año, en comparación con 473 en 2020.

Es significativo que la mayoría de los delitos hayan experimentado una disminución, incluidos homicidios, robos, asaltos, atracos y hurtos. Solo el robo de automóviles experimentó un aumento durante este período el año pasado. La incidencia de violación siguió siendo la misma.

Otro gráfico mostró el número de tiroteos mortales y no mortales durante los últimos tres

años. Históricamente, Boston ha visto un aumento en los tiroteos durante el verano. En julio de 2020, tuvo 48 tiroteos, el número mensual más alto en quince años.

A pesar del clima más cálido, los tiroteos en la ciudad han disminuido un 24 por ciento en comparación con el año pasado, y el Distrito E-13 ha experimentado una disminución del 43 por ciento. Sin embargo, de los doce distritos, E-13 actualmente ocupa el quinto lugar en tiroteos, después de Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester y South Boston.

La reunión de relaciones comunitarias es una oportunidad para que los miembros del público hagan preguntas a los oficiales del BPD. Se lleva a cabo el primer jueves del mes a las 6:30 pm en Zoom. La próxima reunión será el 2 de septiembre. Se anima a asistir a todos los miembros del público interesados en la seguridad pública.

## Bob Cappucci announces his candidacy for Mayor

Bob Cappucci, a lifelong resident of East Boston, a retired Boston Police Officer, and a veteran of the US Navy Nuclear Submarine Service, is running for mayor as the Law and Order candidate. He has experienced the hopes and struggles of many people in Boston: as a Boston police officer; as an elected member of the Boston School Committee; as a substitute teacher in the Boston Public Schools, and as a director of a community housing program in East Boston.

These experiences give Bob a clear and personal understanding of the issues facing Boston's neighborhoods, including education, crime, addiction, domestic violence, and the small businesses that struggle. As mayor he

will make sure all neighborhoods have much more input concerning any real estate development projects. Bob warned, "Each Boston neighborhood has its own unique identity. Oversized new construction is threatening to change them beyond recognition. I will give neighbors more of a say in the approval process that affects their lives."

Bob is Pro-Life, Pro-Police, Pro-Veterans, Pro-Exam Schools. He will represent every person in every neighborhood, he will fully fund the Boston Police Department and he will always support our children, our seniors, and our special needs community.

Bob states, "I love America and I love Boston. Please vote for Bob Cappucci on September



Bob Cappucci.

14th, #7 on the ballot. Thank you. God Bless you and yours."

Learn more at [www.bobcappucciformayor.org](http://www.bobcappucciformayor.org).

Contact Bob at [cappucciformayor@gmail.com](mailto:cappucciformayor@gmail.com).

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# Mildred C. Hailey Tenants Organization awarded Crime Watch Group of the Year at National Night Out

Staff Report

The 38th Annual National Night Out in Boston was celebrated on August 3, and “due to virus considerations, the 2021 version was downsized from

more traditional versions that had included neighborhood parties and caravans,” according to Boston Police Department District E-13 Sgt. John Dougherty. Instead, a luncheon was held this year at the Boston Public

Library in Copley Square, where award winners were invited to celebrate.

According to bpdnews.com, “during this luncheon, the department honors community members for their ongoing sup-

port and partnership with the men and women of the Boston Police Department. Each district throughout the city recognizes and honors some of the top Neighborhood Watch groups and community-based organiza-

tions in their crime prevention successes.”

At the event, the Mildred C. Hailey Tenants Organization was awarded the BPD District E-13 Crime Watch Group of the Year.



The Mildred C. Hailey Tenants Organization was honored with the BPD District E-13 Crime Watch Group of the Year award at the 38th Annual National Night Out in Boston on August 3.



The Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums played at the National Night Out celebration at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library.

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## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



### BEAR & CHLOE

Bear is looking for a home with his best friend, Chloe! They grew up in Texas with a loving family, but when the new baby was born there wasn't enough time for the dogs anymore. They moved into their “grandparents” farm for the time being, where Bear



lost an eye trying to be friends with a not-so-friendly feral cat. He has not held a grudge and is still friendly with kitties, as well as other dogs. They love making new human friends and would do well with dog-savvy kids 12 and up.

For more information about Bear & Chloe and or other animals in need of adoption, please contact:



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Carol Truncala's story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know: don't give up, and remember to give back. If Carol's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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# JPA discusses community updates; potential for meeting in person again

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) met virtually on August 2 for a relatively short meeting to discuss various updates in the community and talk about meeting in person again.

First, the JPA talked about the Forbes Building, saying that the Boston City Council and Acting Mayor Janey have approved a Home Rule Petition called “An Act to Restore Boston’s Governmentally-Involved Housing Protection.”

According to the JPA meeting agenda, the owner of the Forbes Building, “Mr. Paul Clayton, has plans for the building which are likely to minimize or eliminate the availability of subsidized units to the current tenants.”

JPA Chair Rosemary Jones reported that “the next step is going to be a hearing at the State House. I will not pretend to be neutral on this. I am very much in favor of the tenants getting help and not getting evicted.”

Michael Giordano from Councilor Matt O’Malley’s office said that the Councilor was the head sponsor on the home rule petition. Giordano said that there are “about 13 units in the Boston

area that are at risk of becoming unaffordable,” and the goal is aiming “to prevent the eviction of all of those tenants through a number of different ways.”

## REVISED JPA ZONING FAQ SHEET AND FLOWCHART

The JPA then discussed the Zoning FAQ sheet and zoning flowchart that have been drafted as resources for members of the community. Previous iterations have been made available for people to provide feedback.

“We took people’s feedback,” said JPA member Micah Sachs, who, along with JPA member Peter Steiger, worked on the drafting of these documents.

He said that some feedback on both the FAQ document and the flowchart were incorporated in these latest iterations, but the goal was to maintain the “original intention,” which he said is “something that was concise, clear, and balanced for residential applicants that would be coming before the JPA.”

Steiger said that “Micah and I spent a fair amount of time trying to compile these,” adding that the “philosophy of the latest flow chart was to segment it into three major components.” These include the process with

the Jamaica Pond Association, the general Jamaica Plain “community process,” and the Zoning Board of Appeal process.

“The flow chart is not necessarily simple because the process is not necessarily simple,” Steiger said.

A comment was made that the abutters meeting as part of the Jamaica Pond process should be made apparent in the flow chart, which JPA member David Moir agreed with.

The JPA ultimately voted to approve these documents, with eight members in favor, David Moir in opposition, and Kay Mathews abstaining.

## IN-PERSON MEETINGS

The JPA also discussed potentially meeting in person again, and how they will go about finding a meeting place.

Jones said that she and others have started calling potential locations to identify where the JPA could possibly meet.

“I think this problem is going to be with us for many months to come,” said JPA member Kevin Moloney, in reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with rising cases from the Delta variant.

He said that the group “should

expect to be using Zoom until after Christmas sometime,” but “other people may disagree.”

Peter Steiger said “I agree with Kevin,” but suggested that a tutorial for Zoom be held so the JPA can use the platform in the most efficient way possible and to its fullest extent.

“I think we’ve been functioning amazingly well all things considered through Zoom,” he said, adding that “it might not hurt to start exploring venues.”

JPA member Franklyn Salimbene said he is in agreement

with both Steiger and Moloney.

“I think we’re best to follow the guidance of the Commonwealth,” he said. “If the City comes out with even stricter guidance, we should follow the city.”

Jones said that the verdict seems to be that “we won’t work at breakneck speed to find a venue, but will keep a list of places, ideas, and costs.”

Additionally, Jones added that the JPA Annual Meeting will likely be in November on Zoom, and the organization is hoping to recruit some more members.

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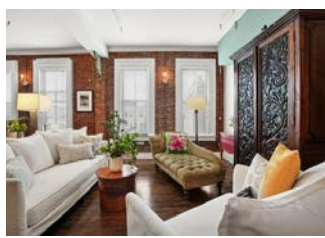
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# 20th Annual 'Best of JP' Reader Survey

Tell us what you love about JP!

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Sept. 10, 2021

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### BEST PLACE TO:

- 1) Enjoy the outdoors \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Work \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Enjoy live entertainment \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) See art \_\_\_\_\_

### CONSUMER FAVORITIES

- 5) Friendliest Business \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Lunch \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Dinner \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Latin American Food \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Asian Food \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Bakery \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Pub/Bar \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Pizza \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) Cup of coffee \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) Retail store (not convenience) \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) Convenience store \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) Personal service (hair, dry cleaning, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) Real estate service \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) Bank or financial service \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) Professional service (lawyer, doctor, insurer, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 21) Home service (plumber, electrician, carpenter, cleaner, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 22) Auto shop \_\_\_\_\_

### BEST BUSINESS IN AN AREA (ANY TYPE)

- 23) South Street \_\_\_\_\_
- 24) Egleston Square \_\_\_\_\_
- 25) Hyde/Jackson Square \_\_\_\_\_
- 26) Centre Street (Monument to Canary Square) \_\_\_\_\_
- 27) Forest Hills \_\_\_\_\_
- 28) Washington Street (between Egleston and Forest Hills) \_\_\_\_\_

### THE REST OF THE BEST

- 29) Community event \_\_\_\_\_
- 30) Playground/tot lot \_\_\_\_\_
- 31) Mural \_\_\_\_\_
- 32) Children's service or activity \_\_\_\_\_
- 33) Health service \_\_\_\_\_
- 34) Local school \_\_\_\_\_
- 35) Neighborhood association or group (no office) \_\_\_\_\_
- 36) Nonprofit service agency (office) \_\_\_\_\_
- 37) Gay/lesbian hang-out/meeting place \_\_\_\_\_
- 38) Storefront \_\_\_\_\_
- 39) Government service \_\_\_\_\_
- 40) JP environmental group or effort \_\_\_\_\_

# Janey announces process for implementing funds from American Rescue Plan Act

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Acting Mayor Kim Janey held a press conference on August 10 to talk about implementing funds from the American Rescue Plan as the city continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and move forward, as well as announced a community engagement process for implementing the funding.

"COVID-19 has had and continues to have severe public health impacts on our city. It has also worsened many of the economic and health disparities that have persisted in Boston across race and ethnicity, gender, and neighborhood," Janey said. "Those disparities, the wealth gap, the jobs gap, the opportunity gap for students, and health inequities contributed to the disproportionate rates of COVID in Boston. It also caused deep economic pain in our city, especially for working-class families and communities of color."

She continued, "I am committed to lead Boston not only out of this public health crisis, but also to a stronger, more equitable city."

Janey said that "one of critical tools we can use for achieving this goal" is the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which is "\$500 million of one-time federal funding," which she said can help "close gaps" in Boston and help the city recuperate.

"We cannot return to the way things were before," Janey said. "Our only option is to go better."

Janey said that the funds from the ARPA will "build on the FY22 operating budget" that has already been passed.

"Since becoming Mayor of Boston, I have prioritized listening to community voices," Janey said. "Today, I'm announcing the launch of Let's Go Better," a listening campaign aimed at helping to "inform the investment of an additional \$400 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)," according to a release from the city.

"As part of Boston's equitable recovery, the City will use these

federal funds for transformative investments in public health, wealth building, and job development programs that will close the gap for those most impacted by the pandemic," the release states. "This is one way the City of Boston is implementing the Health Equity Now Plan, which was presented to the Mayor by the COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force in July."

Residents will be able to participate in community conversations as well as take an online survey. Janey said that the City is looking for feedback from all residents, including those who are essential workers, low income families, communities of color, seniors, youth, small business owners, and more.

According to the City, virtual community conversations are scheduled as follows:

- Affordable Homeownership - August 26 & September 16 from 5:30 - 7:30pm
- Supporting Small Businesses - August 31 & September 14 from 3 - 4pm
- Substance Use Disorders - September 1 from 12 - 2pm
- Access to Internet & Career Training - September 1 from 5:30 - 7:30pm
- Career Training for Quality Jobs (i.e. green jobs, life sciences) - September 8 from 5:30 - 7:30pm
- Quality Jobs & Child-care - September 15 from 12 - 2pm

More meetings will take place in October, but have yet to be scheduled, according to the City.

"We want to hear from everyone," she said. The city has a focus on "eliminating food insecurity," as well as "violence prevention and trauma support," providing job training, and more.

Janey also announced the creation of an Equitable Recovery Task Force, which consists of "community members and leaders who will help coordinate our recovery efforts across the public, private and nonprofit sectors," the City said in the release. The group will discuss recommenda-

*Continued on page 12*

# Dogs

*Continued from page 1*

The meeting was moderated by Persis Yu, who called on those who wanted to speak and facilitated questioning from members of the Governing Board.

At the meeting, there were many community members who expressed why they feel dogs should be allowed in the burial ground, and many who felt it was inappropriate.

Bonnie McBride, a resident who brought this issue up to the Jamaica Pond Association in July, said that she abuts the burial ground and feels that the sign that has recently been put up asking for donations to the Church is not appropriate. She also said she considers cemeteries a “sacred space” and does not believe that dogs belong.

Stephen from the governing board asked McBride what her problem with the sign is.

“I think it’s the timing of the sign,” she responded. “It’s obviously, as I see it, designated to continue this quid pro quo business. I’ve lived here 27 years. That sign when up maybe five months ago.” She said the sign “does not repeat the notice that dogs should be on leash.”

Gwen Coburn had a different point of view. She said she has lived in the neighborhood since 2013, and walks her dog in the cemetery. “I am never there beyond dawn or dusk,” she said, adding that she is “often there in the middle of the day by myself.” Contrary to what some others said, Coburn said she has “never seen another dog there in the middle of the day in the week. From my experience, the dog owners are providing a lot of stewardship for the church,” she added. “We are picking up glass, debris, random things that are in the church yard.”

She continued, “we’re real-

ly grateful for the use of the space...”

Kevin Moloney, a JP resident and member of the Jamaica Pond Association, said that he has lived several places in Jamaica Plain throughout his life, and has “been a dog owner almost my whole life.”

He is of the viewpoint that the burial ground should not welcome dogs. “To run dogs, whether they’re leashed or unleashed, in a historic graveyard, is an abomination,” Moloney said. “The church doesn’t have the legal right to create a nuisance. It should not continue any further.”

Resident Andrew Rainer, one of the dog owners, said that “the church has a right to make appropriate use of its property.” He continued, “we are respectful of the fact that this is a neighborhood and we understand that there are many different perspectives of this.” Rainer also addressed comments made that dog owners are not respectful of the space.

“I can assure you that we are all prepared to significantly limit the hours that people are bringing their dogs there to be good neighbors to you.”

Resident Eric Weil said that as a dog owner, he does take his dog in the cemetery, but he also said he showed his children the headstones and their “significance.” Additionally, he said “the individuals who are in the park police each other quite nicely. We all bring an extra bag.” He said he enjoys cleaning the yard and is still respectful of the burial ground.

Another resident, who identified herself as Judy, said that as someone who lives around the corner from the church, she and her partner were unaware of people using the space for dogs “until a month ago. We saw somebody in the burial ground with their dog. We felt it was disrespectful to the people buried in that burial ground who are buried there as well as any of their descendants.”

RJ Cross, a dog owner, said that a group of dog owners formed a contact list and held a series of Zoom meetings. He said that the group recognizes that there are “legitimately valid concerns about dogs being in the church yard,” but suggested some ideas of how dogs could be allowed in a very respectful way. He suggested that there be a “subset of the park away from the graves,” as well as seeding one or two times a year, and having a membership with dues that will fund yard maintenance. He said that if people do not abide by the rules, they will be banned from the park.

Joshua Dankoff said that there is “clear legal ramification for organizations who let off leash dogs go on their property,” adding that his wife was bitten by an off-leash dog in the Eliot School yard.

“I think it’s important for the board to know and the community to know that that can happen and does happen,” he said.

Alison Angell, a resident who lived on Eliot St. for 14 years, said that she was “there when the Eliot School went through their whole process” with dogs in the schoolyard. She said that the Eliot School had asked dog owners to respect the fact that it was a school yard, not a dog park. She suggested that the church “find

out what their reasons were so you can take them into account.”

She added that she is “surprised by all the dogs” and “how much the grass is no longer green. Those people were buried there by loved ones who believed that would be a cemetery.” Angell did say that she is “very sensitive and respectful of the frustration dog owners have,” and that there is a need for a space for dogs in Jamaica Plain.

Kate Lapine, who has been a JP resident since 1999, said that over the years, she has noticed neighbors weed the burial ground as well as trim shrubs and clean up after their dogs.

“I feel that the folks who are

out here daily are just incredibly warm-hearted and really experiencing the community that the church is such an element here in Jamaica Plain,” she said.

Dennis O’Brien of the church’s Governing Board thanked residents for participating in the listening session. “It’s an important process for us. I don’t know what the board’s going to come up with,” he said, adding that it “will be a decision that’s in the best interest of the church but will take into account concerns.”

For any residents who have comments about the graveyard, they can be emailed to [community@firstchurchjp.org](mailto:community@firstchurchjp.org),

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## E-Mail

Continued from page 1

trickled down to a major municipal election in Boston. Experts say it's likely a trend that will only expand and go further down the political office chain.

It can be a little creepy, and they are prolific, but according to political science experts – they are efficient and successful.

“There has been a huge expansion of digital fundraising, especially since the mid- to late-2000s when it was utilized so successfully by the Obama campaign,” said Northeastern Professor Costas Panagopoulos, chair of the Political Science Department, who noted it was actually Republican John McCain that first used the technology. “The Obama fundraising success is what put him on the map in 2008. One of the main reasons for it was so many small donors giving in small amounts. Those small donations add up to very large sums. Campaigns have been leaning on digital fundraising technology ever since in presidential races.

“Local campaigns now are as professional as higher level campaigns and this technology can be used in even very small races,” he continued. “It’s so scalable. It exists and it’s right there to take advantage of whether it’s for a presidential campaign or for dog catcher.”

Suffolk University Political Science Professor Ken Cosgrove said it’s more than just e-mails in the inbox, but it’s a serious digital operation that targets voters in different neighborhoods with different stories and pleas. He said one person in one part of the city may get a different e-mail than another person – and sometimes two people in the same home can get different, tailored pleas for fundraising.

“This is one of the things that Trump brought back to Repub-

licans that they were good at in the 1980s,” he said. “You can raise a lot of money three dollars at a time and several times over. Barack Obama also did a great job expanding on that idea. People think it’s only \$3 and only one Starbucks coffee a week. It doesn’t sound like much...You have to talk about these candidates now as consumer products and this is an offshoot of it. They are selling you something – policies and stories...The fundraising e-mails are important for that because they tell you stories that will make you feel good and then give them money, or will make you so mad you’ll give them even more money...With all this technology and databases from Google and Facebook, they even know who you are. This technology is very efficient because it’s easy and you can raise more money. I’m not surprised it’s being used this way in the mayoral election this time.”

Cosgrove added that the companies used by the candidates for digital fundraising use databases and information from places like Facebook Audiences and Google to find voters by neighborhood, by race, by profession and even by religion. He said they have learned to make tailored appeals to like-audiences using a number of different criteria.

So, when those e-mails asking for donations and talking about a warm and fuzzy story, or a contentious policy argument, hit one’s inbox – it comes after a great deal of digital research on each person.

Councilor Andrea Campbell’s campaign utilizes the technology with great success so far, using the national company known as MissionWired – which has done similar work for campaigns like President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in 2020. In June, Campbell’s mayoral campaign spent \$27,000 on services from MissionWired

companies and has shown strong fund-raising numbers most every month as a result.

Her campaign said they didn’t want to directly comment on their strategies for fundraising, but did comment that roughly 50 percent of their donations have been raised online.

Councilor Michelle Wu’s campaign has also utilized the e-mail fundraising to a great degree, spending \$5,000 in June with Authentic Campaigns – another major player in the digital space. The campaign said they have been successful using the new tool to reach people where they’re at and allow more people to participate in the fundraising aspect of the campaign.

“We’re proud to have the greatest number of grassroots donors and volunteers in this race,” read a statement from the campaign. “Reaching out by email has helped us meet people where they’re at to power our campaign—whether by pitching in a few dollars or giving their time.”

Acting Mayor Kim Janey’s team has also utilized such technology and spent \$4,500 with Battleaxe Digital in June for digital fundraising. Campaign manager Kirby Chandler said it is one tool of many they are using to build grass-roots support and buy-in.

“We use a number of tools to activate our grassroots supporters and contributors whether via email, texts or social media,” said Chandler. “While fundraising is a part of that outreach, it is also meant to keep supporters up to date on the campaign and the Mayor’s work on behalf of the residents of Boston.”

Councilor Anissa Essaibi George’s campaign spent \$16,000 with Liberty Square Group and LB Strategies in June for digital work, including e-mails that they said have been successful in reaching donors at critical times

and to inform campaign supporters of work that’s going on.

“We use fundraising emails at the end of the month to boost our numbers and make that last minute push with a sense of urgency,” read a statement from the campaign. “Sometimes we choose to send short ‘reminder’ emails such as the one (the paper) is using as an example, and sometimes we provide more of a fun campaign update. We also use these fundraising emails to boost engagement amongst our list and make sure we are regularly using it to our advantage.”

John Barros’s campaign also uses the e-mails, but to a much lesser extent and at a much lower cost. In June, that campaign paid \$340 to MailChimp for sending out fundraising e-mails and other communications.

They did not respond with a comment for this story on their digital activities.

Panagopoulos said don’t expect such fundraising practices locally to fade out with the pandemic, as they were around prior to the pandemic and will continue to expand their reach afterwards. He said it is a cheap, user-friendly way for campaigns to raise money fast from a lot of people, while also keeping them connected to the campaign. It has also come at a time when people have grown more comfortable making online purchases using their credit card, and so they aren’t as wary to contribute online using that same credit card – and reporting contributions to state agencies is made far easier than it was when people sent checks and gave cash.

“It makes it so much easier and it’s a relatively easy way to go about fundraising these days,” he said. “It’s also useful for larger contributions too. People don’t have to go out and find the campaign to give them a check. Even without a pandemic, this kind of fundraising is way easier in contemporary campaigns.”

## All aboard for the ‘Merch Store’ express

Another aspect of the digital campaign fundraising arm is what has now become known as a ‘Merch Store,’ or an online campaign merchandise store.

For some candidates, gone are the days of handing out combs, fingernail files and bumper stickers with their logos for free to supporters and potential voters. Instead, some candidates choose to open a merchandising operation, said Suffolk University Professor Ken Cosgrove. That action goes hand-in-hand with the digital fundraising e-mails. He said when people give their money, and are encouraged with a tailored story, they will often want to buy something to support that action afterward.

Therein lies the magic fundraising capabilities of the ‘Merch Store.’

“It’s smart because you turn people into your mobilized ad force and they pay you to do it,” he said. “That’s something that Trump brought to politics with his red hats. It took a professional marketer and salesman like him to bring that to politics, but it’s here. It’s no different than the Bruins or Red Sox gear people wear around. It doesn’t cost much to make this stuff and you can make a good chunk of change selling it. In a race with this many candidates, building brand recognition matters.”

To this point, Councilor Wu has opened a Merch Store, using the familiar purple colors with ‘Wu!’ emblazoned on the materials for sale.

Acting Mayor Janey has one of the more robust Merch Stores, with her purple and dark yellow colors on T-Shirts, hats, stickers and more. She has even premiered a T-Shirt in her colors that says, ‘Madame Mayor.’





# Jamaica Plain COVID infections spike

By JOHN LYNDS

For weeks Jamaica Plain's COVID 19 positive test rate was virtually nonexistent but it seems the party is over as infections continue to rise.

Health officials are ringing the alarm and trying to get a handle on the Delta variant of the virus that has caused breakthrough infections among vaccinated residents and is decimating the unvaccinated population across the city, state and country. In Boston the positive test rate has neared 4 percent since July 30.

According to the weekly report released last Friday released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 1,699 Jamaica Plain residents were tested last week and 3.4 percent were found to be positive. This was a 26 percent increase from the 2.7 percent that tested positive between July 9 and July 16. The report released on July 16 was the first time the number of Jamaica Plain residents testing positive spiked above 1 percent in weeks.

Of the 41,523 Jamaica Plain residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 7.5 percent overall were found to be positive—this was a 1.3 percentage decrease from the 7.6 percent

reported by the BPHC on July 16.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate increased nearly 30 percent last week. According to the BPHC 18,232 residents were tested and 3.7 percent were COVID positive—this was a 28 percent increase from the 2.9 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The CDC is still studying the effects of the Delta variant on the vaccinated and the unvaccinated, especially children.

Dr. Mark Kline, the physician in chief of Children's Hospital in New Orleans, which has some of the highest COVID infections among children, told ABC's Good Morning America, "We are hospitalizing record numbers of children. Half of the children in our hospital today are under two years of age. Most of the others are between five and ten years of age—too young to be vaccinated just yet."

Dr. John Brownstein, an epidemiologist at Boston Children's Hospital, has warned that children will soon become the "main vectors of virus spread" because they are the "remaining population ineligible for the vaccine."

This, many health experts warn, could cause the Delta variant to smolder among children

populations across the country and lead to new mutations of the virus as it jumps from children to unvaccinated adults. This may set the stage for yet another mutation of COVID 19 that can ultimately become vaccine resistant.

According to the BPHC data, Jamaica Plain's infection rate increased 4 percent since July 16 and went from 739.2 cases per 10,000 residents to 769.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred twenty two additional Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 since July 16 and the number of total cases here went from 2,985 cases to 3,107 cases in the neighborhood.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1.5 percent since August 6 and went from 72,422 cases to 73,531 confirmed cases in a week. There were no additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total deaths from COVID remains at 1,400.



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# Maria Termini paintings inspired by Bolivia

Maria Termini, of JP, will exhibit a series of acrylic paintings inspired by her experiences in Bolivia. The exhibit is open to the public and will take place at the Putterham Library: Wall Gallery from August 1 to September 30, located at 959 West Roxbury Parkway, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, 617 730 2385. The library is open: Monday and Wednesday 10 to 9, Tuesday and Thursday 10 to 6, and Friday 10 to 5.



The Artist Maria Termini.

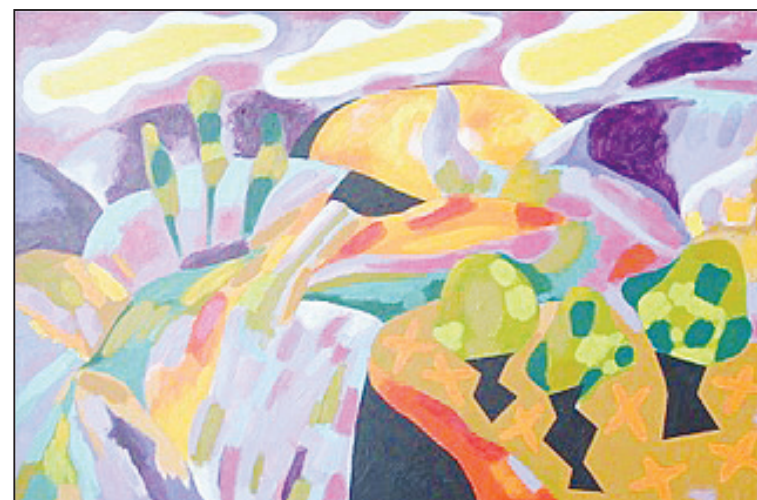
Maria Termini is an artist, author and public speaker. She served in the US Peace Corps in Bolivia and fell in love with this country and has returned many times to visit and explore. She spent much time wandering in wonder in the mountains outside

the city of Sucre, in the jungle near Cochabamba, and in the salt flats of Uyuni. These paintings reflect the drama she saw and felt in the exciting shapes and colors

of the land.

Maria Termini's art has been widely exhibited and is in the collections of many non-profit organizations, as well as the Boston Public Library, the De Cordova Museum, and the Fogg Museum. Her latest book, *Through the Mountains to the Stars*, is a collection of stories and photographs about the adventures of a curious solo woman traveler in the Andes and especially Bolivia.

Maria Termini has been a practicing artist for many years. Her art is joyful, and wonder-filled and reflects her love of combining exciting colors. She works in acrylic, silkscreen, watercolor, collage, colored pencil and fabric appliqué delighting in the unique qualities of these materials. Her inspiration has been enriched by her many travels, ancient rock



PHOTOS BY MARIA TERMINI

"Chaunaca" by Maria Termini.

art, her process of improvising with colors and shapes, the color purple, exciting visual possibilities in nature and by her experience as a musician.

Maria Termini has a studio and gallery in the Roslindale neighborhood of Boston. All the

works in the show are for sale and studio visits are welcome. More information can be found on her website: [www.mariatermini.com](http://www.mariatermini.com) For inquiries about the work, please contact the artist by e-mail: [mariatermini2013@gmail.com](mailto:mariatermini2013@gmail.com) or phone 617 553 2762.

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# Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announces state grants for nearby child care centers

By JOHN LYNDS

Last month, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Early Education and Care Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy announced \$7.5 million in Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EEOST) capital improvement grants to thirty-six organizations to renovate child-care facilities that serve primarily low-income families like the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, Paige Academy and the Roxbury YMCA.

Polito said the Baker-Polito Administration teamed up with the Children's Investment Fund (CIF) and its affiliate the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) for \$721,000 in total grant money towards the three agencies. The thirty-six recipients all received grants between \$100,000 to \$250,000 to provide capital funding needed to address health and safety concerns related to COVID-19.

"These awards announced today – which mark the largest total amount awarded since the inception of the EEOST grants

– will improve child care programs across the state," said Polito. "Now more than ever, as families return to workplaces, investments in early education and care settings are vital to provide necessary resources to children and their families through high-quality early childhood education and out-of-school time programs."

The capital grants will help continue to support major renovation and construction projects at the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, Paige Academy and the Roxbury YMCA to improve the quality of learning environments for the children they serve.

Both the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center and Paige Academy received \$250,000 while the Roxbury YMCA received a \$221,000 grant.

The Early Education and Out of School Time capital improvement grants are financed through the state's capital budget and provide matching funds that leverage private investment. More than \$200 million in public and private investments have been leveraged throughout the life of the

grant program. The Baker-Polito Administration's FY21 Capital Budget Plan included funding for the Early Education and Out of School Time capital improvement grant program.

"Every child deserves the opportunity to learn in high-quality, safe, healthy, and joyous education environments," said Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy. "Well-designed classrooms and play spaces can greatly enhance early learning and support children to grow and thrive."

In a statement after the announcement Gov. Charlie Baker said his administration is committed to supporting childcare providers like United South End Settlements who have worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to care for children and support families returning to work.

"Since the start of this grant program, we've invested more than \$39.2 million in capital funding at childcare programs that impact the learning experiences of more than 9,000 children in communities across Massachusetts," he said.



PLEASE RECYCLE



# Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council election to be held on August 21

STAFF REPORT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) is holding its biannual election a year late because of the pandemic. The election will be held on August 21 from 10am-4pm inside the Forest Hills MBTA station, as well as outside of JP Licks at 649 Centre St. and Stop and Shop at 301 Centre St., weather permitting. COVID-19 precautions will be taken at all polling locations. So far, there are 11 candidates running, and write-ins will be permitted, but full names and addresses of individuals being written in are required.

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) was founded in 1985 through a Mayoral decree to increase and improve communication between the Jamaica Plain community, the City of Boston, and other public agencies. The Mayor appointed the initial JPNC, but soon afterwards those members recognized that it was more important to hear the voice of the community and moved to biennial election of members. It was decided at that point to have a 20 member Council made up of 5 members from three different geographic areas and 5 at-large members. Since that first election the JPNC has remained a volunteer organization that offers the people of Jamaica Plain the opportunity to participate directly and fully in governing neighborhood affairs. The Council brings together a cross-section of Jamaica Plain's diverse community to make decisions and recommendations regarding development, service delivery, and other public issues in our neighborhood.

Much of the work of the Council occurs in monthly meetings of their working committee, of which there are currently 3, Public Service, Zoning, and Housing and Development. The full Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month to review and approve the recommendations of the working committees. These meetings are all of the meetings of the JPNC are open to the public and the community is invited to actively participate through attending these meetings, proposing agenda items, speaking on current topics, and joining the Council's different working committees. For more

information on the JPNC and its committees, visit [jpsc.org](http://jpsc.org).

Below are bios for candidates who will appear on the ballot:

## Area A

### Marvin Mathelier

Marvin Dee Mathelier was born in Brooklyn, New York and currently lives in Egleston Square, Jamaica Plain. Marvin's drive and motivation in joining JPNC was based on wanting to maintain a diverse and safe community within JP and being a voice for those residents that do not have a platform to speak on. Marvin is part of the Housing and Development Committee and is committed to ensuring all JP residents is being treated fairly as the neighbor continues to change.

Marvin is also the co-founder of Call It Out, which focuses on educating, validating, and finding ways to mitigate systemic racism within our community. He is also co-owner of Ula Café. Additionally, Marvin is a consultant at Slalom and is a Major in the United States Reserves. On his spare time, Marvin loves to spend time with his wife, Beth, and his two little girls, Nora and Zoey.

### Brandon Yu Iisuka Russell

Brandon was originally appointed to fill a vacancy in the JPNC in February of 2021 and is now seeking to represent Area A in the JPNC. Brandon is an organizer, involved community member, and dedicated public servant living in JP. Of Japanese

and Venezuelan descent, he has been a passionate advocate for language access in government and political processes. Growing up without housing stability has given Brandon a focus on creating and preserving affordable housing. He is currently the Democratic State Committeeman representing the Young Democrats of Massachusetts in the Massachusetts Democratic Party. In his day job, Brandon serves as a Legislative Aide to

State Rep. Chynah Tyler and previously served as Communications & Community Relations Coordinator to Council President Kim Janey.

### Trevor Wissink-Adams

Trevor Wissink-Adams has lived in Jamaica Plain since 2012, first on Boylston Street and now with his wife, Jay, and their daughter on Amory Street. Living near Stony Brook has

*Continued on page 12*



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## Election

*Continued from page 1*

intensified Trevor's passion for green space, spending time in Southwest Corridor Park, Jamaica Pond, and the Arboretum. Trevor has a master's degree in education and has worked in public school education for the past 13 years. He is interested in reviving the Parks Committee in the year ahead. Trevor was elected to the neighborhood council in 2018.

Area B

Area C

### **Gert D Thorn AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**

As a resident of Jamaica Plain since 2013, Gert plans to continue focusing on issues that affect the quality of life and our environment in Jamaica Plain. He has previously served on com-

munity boards in New York City, including as a neighborhood association president in Brooklyn; as a member of the Town Planning Board in Westport, Connecticut, and currently serves on a historical society board.

Gert has a great interest in ensuring that our community continues to be diverse, and that we support opportunities to improve our built environment and provide resources to our residents.

Gert is an architect with experience in urban planning, multi-family housing, commercial, university and healthcare, and well versed in working with governmental entities and community boards. He is concerned about the ease with which significant zoning variances are granted by the JPNC without regard to the impact on the JP Community. Gert was also an activist for the protection of the façade at the now JPMorgan Chase branch.

## Janey

*Continued from page 6*

tions for investments in the city for both the short and long term, focusing most on groups most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

City Councilor Michael Flaherty is charged with supervising "the distribution of recovery funds for the Boston City Council," Janey said.

Janey also talked about moving forward with the climate and "environmental justice" in mind. "Boston has been a leader in

climate action," she said. "We have committed to climate neutrality and updated Boston's Climate Action Plan."

Janey has also declared a heat emergency beginning on August 11 and lasting through August 13. Cooling centers will be open across the city from 10:30am-6pm. She advised residents to drink water and "limit outdoor activities to morning and evening hours," and to stay in shady areas as much as possible.

The community survey, as well as more information about the federal funding and recovery, can be found at [boston.gov/recover](http://boston.gov/recover).

He also has been an advocate of Green Building environmentally responsible design, and is known as a "hands-on" advocate, pro-active in engaging with community members.

### **Peg Preble**

Peg Preble has lived in JP since 1991. She is presently on the Neighborhood Council, and on the Zoning committee. Peg works in the JP area as a residential electrician, and has intimate knowledge of many neighborhood attics and basements. Her love for the quirky housing stock of JP and the wish to insure that the neighborhoods have a voice in their community drew her to the council.

### **Bernard Doherty**

I am seeking re-election to the JPNC to help bring about a more balanced and inclusive approach on issues affecting the future of this community.

Issues, such as truly affordable housing, community wide input on zoning issues, public safety and insuring an open forum for the expressions of views and opinions.

I have been a member of the JPNC from 1985 to the present and have served as the Chair of the Zoning Committee; Vice-Chair of the JPNC as well as chaired Asticou-Martinwood-South Neighborhood Association, UMass Boston Graduate.

### **Micah Sachs**

Micah Sachs has embraced living in Jamaica Plain since moving here in 2015. Micah recently joined the JPNC and is also a board member of the Jamaica Pond Association. Micah's top

priority on the JPNC will be increasing housing supply to make JP more affordable to renters and first-time home buyers, especially those not making six figures. Micah works for a Boston-based data analytics company, Com-linkdata, and previously was a community journalist, including in his hometown of Natick. Micah lives with his wife Jean Capizzi and son Simon, and can often be seen going on runs through JP's spectacular parks.

At-Large

### **Michael Reiskind**

Michael Reiskind is a longtime resident of Jamaica Plain and a hard-working community activist involved in many aspects of neighborhood life. He is presently the Secretary of the Council. He also is Chair of its Public Service Committee, where he works on public safety, public works and transportation issues. He is a board member of JP Centre/South Main Streets, the Jamaica Pond Association, The Arborway Committee for Public Transit, Inc. and the JP Business and Professional Association. In addition, he has been a leader working with the Boston Police Department to implement Neighborhood Policing in Jamaica Plain.

### **Dave Baron**

I am currently an At-Large member of the Neighborhood Council and, since 2009, have served as chair of the Council's Zoning Committee, where I have worked to create a fair, open, and participatory process in which all voices and perspectives are heard. I am highly committed to

advocating for Jamaica Plain and for our priorities as a neighborhood within the City of Boston. And I would like to see a new dog park approved in JP in the next two years. By day, I have a (fantastic) law practice specializing in real estate.

### **Will Cohen**

Will Cohen seeks election to another term as an at-large member. He believes that new construction of multifamily housing is needed to address Boston's housing crisis and historic segregation patterns from redlining. He values the walkable, bikeable, and transit-accessible qualities of Jamaica Plain and hopes to see the JPNC work proactively to help the neighborhood build upon its strengths. Originally from North Carolina, he is an urban planner at the design firm Utile, where he works on city-wide, zoning, and housing plans across New England, he teaches at Boston College, and he lives on Walk Hill Street with his family.

### **Samantha Montano**

Sam Montano (she/her/they/them) is a queer latine housing and community development organizer based in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston. Originally from Los Angeles, CA, Sam has been in Boston the last 8 years diving deep into city politics and community organizing. In addition, Sam for the last 3 years has held an elected seat on the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, Co-Chairs the Mass NOW Political Action Committee, and participates on the Young Democrats of Massachusetts Latino Caucus.

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# Ward 10 Democrats endorse Gray, Halbert and Louijeune for City Council At-Large, Kendra Hicks for City Council District 6 and Kenzie Bok for City Council District 8

At the July 21 Committee meeting the Ward 10 Democratic Party Committee endorsed Alex Gray, David Halbert and Ruthzee Louijeune for City Council At-Large for the September preliminary election.

The Ward 10 Democratic Party Committee also endorsed

Kendra Hicks for District 6 City Council and Kenzie Bok for District 8.

The criteria for endorsement by the Ward 10 Dems is a two-thirds majority of committee members voting.

The Committee also considered endorsements in the Boston

mayoral race without any candidates meeting the two-thirds majority criteria.

The Ward 10 Committee conducted meetings with candidates for mayor, city council at large and District 6 from January through July. These meetings were conducted as public webi-

nars and allowed the Committee members and Ward 10 neighbors to observe candidates in real time with attendees presenting questions that were not provided in advance.

The Ward 10 Democratic Party Committee takes pride in its activism, diversity, progressive

vision and community engagement. The passion and dedication of the Committee members was demonstrated by the extensive work to prepare for the many public webinars and by their high degree of participation in the series of events.

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PLEASE RECYCLE

# Stonybrook Neighborhood Association provides updates on community project

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) met virtually on August 9 to discuss updates on projects in the community.

First, SNA Steering Committee member Jonathan McCurdy

spoke briefly about a parcel of land that will be up for sale. He said it is a “landlocked piece of land off of Forest Hills Street,” and the city will let the SNA know when it’s up for sale. McCurdy said that the approximate value of the parcel is \$28,000,

and a deed restriction for open space has been requested by abutters and other members of the neighborhood.

**BMS PAPER**

SNA member Jennifer Uhrhane explained that the subcommittee for the BMS Paper

project, which is located at 3390 Washington St., and consists of 160 proposed residential units and expansion of the existing retail space as well as a restaurant space, has been having conversations with the development team “for quite a while now.”

She said that one of the subcommittee members recently had a virtual meeting with BMS Paper owner Bob Harrington to present some “alternative design ideas that we’ve been talking about.” The subcommittee had several issues with the proposed design of the building, so these suggestions were meant to help alleviate some of those.

Uhrhane said that the next step is to have a meeting with Harrington’s architect and the rest of the project team. The Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) is also reviewing this building, she said, and held a hearing last month. She said that the BCDC “echoed the subcommittee’s concerns about the trees and the hillside on the back of the property.” Right now, the project proposal calls for the removal of some of the hillside on the back of the property.

Uhrhane said she had reached out to Speak for the Trees, a tree canopy advocacy group, who said that one of their members can do a walkthrough of the site.

97-99 WILLIAMS ST.

SNA member Scott Glidden reported that last month, the SNA voted not to oppose the proposed project at 97-99 Williams St. to construct condo units on the lots. He said that the Steering Committee will be sending a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) and the Jamai-

ca Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC).

The newly proposed design allows for preservation of trees on the property line, he said, and there is no date set yet for the ZBA or the JPNC. He also said that the subcommittee is asking for a deed restriction to be put in place, as the sidewalk currently comes up to the right of the 99 Williams lot. There are four parking spaces for the six units, three of which will be under the building and there is one additional parking space at the end of the building.

He said that this “leaves 97’s green space intact” and allows for the creation of more green space. The deed restriction would prevent further paving of the green space “anytime in the future,” and would be “in the land deed, not just in the condominium documents,” he added.

75 STEDMAN

SNA Steering Committee member Jonathan McCurdy explained that the proponents for the proposed self storage facility at 75 Stedman St. came before the SNA a few months ago to present their idea.

He said that he and two other SNA members met as a subcommittee a couple weeks ago to discuss the proposal, and they are currently working on a letter to send to the developer.

“We’re going to request that they rethink the proposal,” McCurdy said, adding that PLAN: JP/Rox “advises against the storage facility.”

*Continued on Page 19*

## Emerald Necklace Conservancy presents “Cocktails in the Park”

STAFF REPORT

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is transforming its must-attend Party in the Park luncheon this year into Cocktails in the Park, a unique cocktail event, to take place at Pinebank Promontory at Jamaica Pond on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 from 5 to 7:30pm.

Cocktails in the Park will bring guests together in celebration of parks and open space, and their essential role in public health. All proceeds will support the Revitalization of Charlesgate Park—a critical link in the region’s green space network.

Boston’s parks advocates, Conservancy supporters and Emerald Necklace champions will be in attendance at Cocktails in the Park. Festive fall décor, including Winston Flowers greenery and arrangements, will grace the open air, amid the stunning backdrop of some of Boston’s most magnificent trees and views of Jamaica Pond. Attendees will enjoy an outdoor and tented reception courtesy of The Catered Affair, a silent auction and other unique activities. Tickets and sponsorships are available online at [www.emeraldnecklace.org](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org).

[org/party-in-the-park](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/party-in-the-park).

“We are so thrilled for this event to be returning to the Emerald Necklace this year and taking a moment to reflect on what the parks have meant for us over the past 18 months, and how we can continue to invest in this unparalleled Boston gem. Planning an event during these times is challenging, but, with the leadership of our amazing event co-chairs and the entire Party in the Park Committee, we are excited to bring renewed attention to the Emerald Necklace parks, and the Revitalization of Charlesgate Park in particular,” said Wendy Shattuck, Founder of Party in the Park.

Charlesgate Park, located at the intersection of Boston’s Back Bay, Fenway and Kenmore neighborhoods, was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as the first part of the Emerald Necklace, connecting the Charles River Esplanade, Commonwealth Avenue Mall, several neighborhoods and the five-mile, six-park linear park system of the Emerald Necklace. In the 1950s and 1960s, prioritization of road construction over parkland (Storrow Drive) compromised this once-idyllic space, overshadowing it with a highway

overpass (Bowker Overpass), and dividing it with new roads and on-ramps, ultimately increasing pollution of the Muddy River and deteriorating the park’s usability. Stripped of its amenities, Charlesgate Park—originally a neighborhood green space and a local destination—now functions primarily as a pass-through for pedestrians and vehicles, devoid of recreational services.

“The Charlesgate section of the Emerald Necklace is so compromised today, that most visitors don’t recognize it as parkland. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring this parkland back to prominence,” said Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of Emerald Necklace Conservancy. “Thanks to the tremendous work of the committee members and supporters of Cocktails in the Park, the proceeds from the event will go directly to making 13 acres of Olmsted’s park into an accessible, vibrant and environmentally-sound destination again, and provide much-needed amenities in this dense and active part of the city.”

Learn more about the Revitalization of Charlesgate Park here: [www.emeraldnecklace.org/restoration/charlesgate](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/restoration/charlesgate).

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Docket No. SU18P0916EA

Estate of: Chester Parasco Date of Death: 04/05/2018

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has

been filed by Elinor Horner of West Roxbury, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding.

To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 09/09/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and

objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 29, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

8/13/2021 JP

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND

### FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU21C0032CA

In the matter of: Elizabeth Alexa McKenzie Sennesh A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Elizabeth Alexa McKenzie Sennesh of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Linden Alistair McKenzie-Sennesh

Any person may appear

for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/02/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 30, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

8/13/21 JP

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L.C. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU21P15956D

Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

In the matter of: Steven Gowey Of: Jamaica Plain, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has

been filed by Brigham and Women’s F. Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Steven Gowey is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or

your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/01/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this

proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 29, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

8/13/21

JP

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# JPNC hears committee updates; discusses upcoming Council election

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on July 27, where members discussed updates from committees, including the Zoning Committee and Housing and Development Committee, and provided updates for the Council's upcoming election on August 21.

## ZONING COMMITTEE

Zoning Committee Dave Baron reported on four issues that were heard by the committee in July. The first was a proposal at 302 Lamartine St. to knock down the existing front and rear decks and build new porches in the front and rear. The property is owner-occupied, and Baron reported that neither the side yard nor the rear yard insufficiencies were worsened by the proposal.

At 93 Brookley Road, the proposal was to enclose the three decks on the front facade to create more living space for each of the three units. All units are owner-occupied, and Baron said that the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association had submitted a letter of non-opposition.

At 96 Sheridan St., the proposal was to legally change the occupancy of a two family building into a three family building and to install sprinklers. Baron said that this building has been operating as a three unit dwelling since 2004, and the owner is looking to legalize that use.

At 19 Granada Park, Baron explained that the proposal was the "most controversial matter that needs a vote."

He said that the Chilcott/Granada Park Neighborhood Association and the Egleston

Square Neighborhood Association (ESNA) Housing Committee had both heard this proposal and had concerns with the process for the project.

Baron said that "a contractor on behalf of the owners did work" on this two family residence that has operated as and been taxed as a three family residence. "From a zoning standpoint, it's a two family residence," Baron said.

The contractor had removed an internal staircase between the second and third floors, and enclosed a deck.

Baron said that all of this was done "without getting a variance and then later on were cited when they went for the final inspection." The project violated the zoning code because there are three units in a building zoned for only two.

This "drew some ire" from both the ESNA Housing Committee and the Chilcott/Granada Park Neighborhood Association, Baron said, as they wondered whether "this was a deliberate abuse of the process" or rather a "series of miscommunications and a language problem."

He said, "whatever the answer there," the ESNA and the Chilcott/Granada Park Neighborhood Association "had focused on a few problems that they wanted to make sure were addressed," including that the third floor unit be limited to only two bedrooms, and concerns with parking. There are five spaces for the building, but there were concerns that those spaces were all being used by the owner or being leased out to tenants for

an additional cost.

The Zoning Committee's recommendation was to approve this project with the provisos that the third floor unit have no more than two bedrooms, and that the parking spaces be made available for free to tenants of the building.

The recommendation of the Committee was also to approve the other three projects with no provisos.

JPNC member Bernie Doherty said he is not in support of approving projects like the ones on Sheridan St. and Granada Park, as they have been operating against the zoning code.

"This is criminal behavior and I don't think the council should ally itself with this type of behavior," he said.

The full JPNC voted to approve the projects as recommended by the Committee, with Doherty voting in opposition and Peg Preble abstaining.

## HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Housing & Development Committee Chair Carolyn Royce reported on two different building proposals at 56-267 Amory St., one for the new headquarters of Youth Enrichment Services (YES), and another for nine residential condominium units. The Committee sought a vote on a letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

Royce said that these are "two different buildings, two different owners," and "two different construction teams."

She said that YES has run out of space in their current location on Mass. Ave., and are in search

of a new location to store their equipment.

Royce said that the Committee's concerns with the condo building are "affordability and finishing the process with the neighborhood." She said that no affordable units are proposed on the site, but "people are excited about YES coming" to the neighborhood.

She said that there are positive aspects to the condo proposal, including the fact that there are "significant sidewalk improvements." There is one two bedroom unit, and the rest are three bedroom units.

JPNC member Max Glikman said that if a developer is proposing community benefits, "all of that stuff adds up," and "in theory," they "might be putting more into the community than just putting in an affordable unit." He said looking at having affordable units alone as a "benchmark" is not a good idea.

JPNC member Will Cohen said he agrees with Glikman. "In the world of urban planning..." he said, "in the end, whatever decision we make, there's a tradeoff."

JPNC member Samantha Montano had a different viewpoint. She said "when we don't accept those extra units, we create a problem in JP where we're creating scarcity. That's why the neighborhood is primarily white."

She added that "we need to make sure that we're being proactive and approving density in places like JP."

The JPNC voted to send a letter to the BPDA outlining what it feels is good about the proposal

and what it believes needs work.

The Council also voted to approve changes to the Healthy Homes guidelines that were worked on by the net-zero carbon subcommittee, as well as updated resource documents. These new documents are a "resource list for homeowners and developers that would go up on the JPNC website," Royce said. They include a FAW document about net zero carbon, energy efficiency, and electrification.

Additionally, there is an "updated checklist" on the Healthy Homes guidelines.

Royce said that the goal of these documents is to provide more information and discussion around energy efficiency and goals for electrification in the neighborhood.

## ELECTION

JPNC Chair reported that the JPNC is looking for volunteers for its upcoming election on August 21. JPNC member Michael Reiskind said that write-ins are permitted, and "to eliminate the possibility of misunderstanding of who is running," a person's name and their address must be included on the ballot for write-ins. For area candidates, at least 25 votes are needed to win the seat, and for at-large candidates, at least 50 are required.

The election will take place on Saturday, August 21 from 10am-4pm inside the Forest Hills MBTA station, and outside JP Licks on Centre St. and Stop and Shop on Centre St., weather permitting. "In light of increasing cases of COVID, precautions will be taken at each location," Rainsford told the Gazette.

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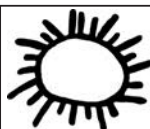


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# Massport awards annual STEM Scholarships; two local high school students to receive awards

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) recently celebrated the recipients of the 2021 Diversity Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school students who have shown an interest in pursuing a degree that could be utilized in the transportation industry, have done community service, have been accepted to an accredited college or university and have submitted essays describing their career interests or how community service has affected their outlook on life. Two Boston students, Arianna Callender and Djackyna Celestin, are each receiving \$3,000 awards for college.

“Everything we do here at Massport involves STEM. There are countless career paths in the tech and science industries for students to explore, and so many opportunities here in Massachusetts,” said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. “We wish Arianna and Djackyna the best of luck at school, and hope these scholarships encourage even more students to take a serious look at the STEM disciplines when planning their career paths.”

The 2021 Recipients of the Diversity STEM Scholarship:

Djackyna Celestin  
Jamaica Plain

Djackyna just graduated from Brighton High School with a 3.70 GPA. She will be attending University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall. She believes that studying engineering will open her mind mentally and physically, and in the future she wants to give back to her community by using her engineering skills. One of her teachers said, “She is a motivated student, driven towards success by rich vision for her future and a keen eye for observing injustices and opportunities in the world around her.”

She has also completed ambitious and challenging internships that are deeply relevant to her career aspirations and values: organizing protests and policy discussions for the Boston Teachers Union, and exploring



Pictured (left to right) Lisa Wieland, Massport CEO, Djackyna Celestin of JP, and Tiffany Brown-Grier, Acting Director of Diversity and Inclusion/Compliance.



Pictured (left to right) Lisa Wieland, Massport CEO, Arianna Callender, and Tiffany Brown-Grier, Acting Director of Diversity and Inclusion/Compliance.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MASSPORT

the legal field by working at Burns & Levinson LLP.

Arianna Callender  
Mattapan

Arianna recently graduated from the Boston Community Leadership Academy in Hyde Park with a 4.37 GPA.

She will be attending Bryn Mawr College of Pennsylvania in the fall, where she will be majoring in biochemistry with a minor in health studies. Arianna’s dream is to become a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Her math teacher said: “Arianna is determined to enter

the field of medicine, with aspirations and plans to become a doctor.”

Arianna volunteers at Boston Cares, preparing and distributing meals to children and adults. While participating in the Student Scholar of Success Link Program, she received college credit and represented students on the Boston Student Advisory Council. In her words, she “wants to come back to her community and help shape higher path for learning, improve health care, and help underrepresented families all over the world.”

To be considered for the Diversity STEM Scholarship, graduating seniors MUST be:

- A student of color
- A resident or school attendee in the City of Boston or one of Massport’s Neighboring Communities (East Boston, South Boston, Chelsea, Charlestown, Winthrop, Revere, Worcester, Lexington, Lincoln, Concord and Bedford)
- A high school senior with a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Accepted to an accredited college or university
- Involved in community ser-

vice

- Interested in pursuing a degree that could be utilized in the Transportation Industry. Areas of study may include but not limited to Aviation, Maritime, Real Estate, Business Administration, Accounting, Architecture, Engineering, Finance, or Human Resources.

The applications were judged by a committee of Massport employees. More information about the scholarship can be found here [www.massport.com/massport/community/initiatives/internship-scholarships/](http://www.massport.com/massport/community/initiatives/internship-scholarships/).

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## EDITORIAL

# A bleak future for the Earth

The report released this week by the United Nations detailing the impending effects of climate change in the near future because of our rapidly-warming atmosphere paints the starkest picture yet of what awaits life on Earth as we know it if we do not change our ways.

Our planet has warmed by an average of 1.1 degrees Celsius since mankind started belching carbon gases into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels in the late 19th century.

Scientists have long told us that an increase of 1.5 degrees in global temperature represents the tipping point at which life as we know it becomes all but impossible. Almost all of today's living creatures, both in the oceans and on the land, will not survive if the Earth becomes that hot.

We already are seeing the dramatic and dire consequences of what happens at our present 1.1 C level: The polar ice sheets are melting, the permafrost areas in the Arctic Circle in Siberia are catching fire, epic floods are striking everywhere, massive superstorms threaten coastlines, out-of-control wildfires scorch vast swaths of forest acreage and pollute the air across hundreds of miles, coral reef bleaching is turning our oceans floors into dead zones, and heat waves are killing humans and animal life in every corner of the globe.

The U.N. report basically states that an increase to 1.3 Celsius already is baked (no pun intended) into the next 20 years or less, with every .10 increase adding exponentially to the damage. In other words, no matter what we do, things are going to get worse.

On the other hand, perhaps the only good news in the report is that the increase to 1.5 is not inevitable -- but that is ONLY if we adopt policies now and we put them into place starting today. The global economy cannot turn on the proverbial dime, but we can move incrementally over the next 20 years to eliminate the carbon footprint of each and every human being so that the 1.5 threshold is not breached.

The bottom line is that we are running out of time to save the planet and preserve civilization as we know it. Some might point to the high economic cost of changing our consumption of energy from fossil fuels to clean alternatives. And to be sure, that conversion will cost trillions of dollars over the next two decades.

But the costs of climate-related catastrophes -- in both economic and human terms -- soon will far outweigh whatever the price may be to convert to clean energy.

Unless we change our ways, there literally will be no place on Earth that will be safe to live. To paraphrase the great heavyweight boxing champ Joe Louis, we can try to run from climate change, but there will be nowhere on our planet to hide.

## PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication.

Letters may be emailed to [letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com](mailto:letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com). Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

## OP-ED

# Life learning, commitment and hard work

DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

We are always learning. Life is filled with education. We learn all the time.

Every day we receive new information about health, the planet, communication, medicines, the universe and more. Life is a process of learning and developing.

Education is more than grades one through twelve, college, and beyond. There are many aspects to every job we do that we never learned in school. We learn from parents if we will listen. We learn from coworkers. We learn from our failures. We learn how not to do something because we tried it once and it failed. The good thing about failing is that it doesn't haven't to be final. Some things are final but not everything. Just because your first marriage failed doesn't mean your second marriage will fail. Hopefully you learned from your first marriage and you won't make the same mistakes the second time around.

You may have a business failure. This happens to a lot of people. This doesn't mean your business efforts will fail in the future. Hopefully you learned

from your first efforts and can avoid the same mistakes again in your next endeavor.

Possibly you tried a lifestyle that did not work out for you. Maybe you abused alcohol or even drugs or pursued a negative lifestyle that greatly diminished your life to the point where your life seemed hopeless. This doesn't mean you have to stay this way. With a dedicated decision and often help from others you can turn your life around and do better.

We can learn from mistakes. They are educational and usually expensive. They set us back in life. They aren't fun and can be tormenting.

Remember, you can't live in the past. Don't totally forget what past failure did to you because you don't want to repeat your mistakes. However, the past is over. Live your life forward.

As you go forward there are easier ways to learn. Study the lives of others. Research what they did and read. People all around us are either succeeding, failing or at least stable. Study others whose lives intrigue or impress you. Study their careers, work ethic, their values and how they make them work to achieve

the life they are living. You can learn a lot by observing and studying others. You can also learn from the failures of others. What were some of their obvious mistakes?

Volunteering or taking an entry level job with someone you would like to emulate is a great way to learn their success principles.

There are cases where nothing seems to make sense. Life is not always fair. We all have different interests, physical abilities, backgrounds and lifelong developed skills. Take all these into consideration and bring them together to work for you.

Success always has new twists, turns and innovative ways. However, they are not accomplished without some form of life learning, commitment and hard work.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

## Essaibi George nabs first spot on mayoral preliminary ballot

BY SETH DANIEL

The City Elections Commission held a lottery on Friday afternoon to draw the positions for the Sept. 14 Preliminary election – including the position for the eight mayoral candidates and the 17 at-large candidates.

Drawing out of a little gold tumbler, reminiscent of a basement church bingo session, Election Commission Chair Eneida Tavares first drew for the office of mayor, where eight candidates have qualified for the ballot even though only five are routinely talked about.

One candidate, State Rep. Jon Santiago, qualified for the ballot and was drawn for the 6th position, but has already halted his campaign and is likely to officially withdraw from the race and take his name off the ballot.

The top of the ballot and the last spot on the ballot are two

of the more time-honored and preferable positions amongst campaign insiders, and the top spot on the Mayoral Preliminary went to Councilor Anissa Essaibi George.

The Essaibi George campaign said they were happy with the ballot position, but are more excited to keep talking with voters ahead of the Preliminary.

“We are excited about our position on the ballot and even more excited to continue connecting with the voters across the city who will cast their ballots on September 14,” read a statement from the campaign.

The last spot on the ballot went to John Barros.

The Preliminary will whittle the eight candidates down to two for the final election in November.

The order on the September ballot for mayor will be:

•Councilor Anissa Essaibi

George, Dorchester

•Richard Spagnuolo, North End

•Councilor Andrea Campbell, Mattapan

•Councilor and Acting Mayor Kim Janey, Roxbury

•Councilor Michelle Wu, Roslindale

•State Rep. Jon Santiago (who is out of the race), South End

•Robert Capucci, East Boston

•John Barros, Dorchester

The longer part of the afternoon was choosing the ballot position for the 17 at-large Council candidates that made the ballot. The 17 will be narrowed down to eight for the November election. The top four vote-getters in November will receive at-large seats on the Council.

The order is as follows:

•Carla Monteiro, Dorchester

•Althea Garrison, Dorchester

*Continued on page 19*

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### KRIEGER NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT BATES COLLEGE

Megan Krieger of Jamaica Plain was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the winter semester ending in May 2021. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.88 or higher.

Krieger, the daughter of Joel Krieger and Carol L. Dougherty, is a 2018 graduate of Boston Latin School. She is majoring in politics and minoring in education and German at Bates.

### BRIDGEWATER STATE AWARDS DEGREES IN GRADUATE STUDIES

Master's degrees and certificates of advanced graduate study were awarded to approximately 900 graduate students from the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 at Bridgewater State University's Graduate Commencement Convocation on Thursday, July 30, at Gillette Stadium.

The graduate ceremony was the first of four held across three days. Bachelor's degrees were awarded to the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 on Friday and Saturday. BSU was the only college or university to hold graduation

at Gillette this year.

Speakers addressing the topic leadership included Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, BSU president emeritus; Rep. Stephen Lynch of the Eighth Congressional District; and former Sen. Therese Murray, the first woman president of the Massachusetts State Senate. All received honorary degrees.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to individuals who made the Plymouth 400 celebration possible, even during the COVID crisis. They included Ms. Linda Coombs, Wampanoag historian and independent scholar; and Dr. Gary Maestas, past school superintendent of Plymouth Public Schools.

Messages to the members of the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 were delivered by Keisha Garbutt, '20, of Belize City, Belize, and Sunder Singhani, '21, of Bridgewater.

Two academic awards were presented to members of each class.

Receiving the Distinguished Graduate Thesis Award were Joseph Gorman, '20, of North Kingstown, RI, who received a Master of Arts in English and Emily Ryan, '21, of Middleboro, who received a Master of Criminal Justice.

The Distinguished Graduate Research-Project Award was presented to John Scopelleti, '20 of Scituate, and Melissa Harris, '21, of Quincy, both of whom earned Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership degrees.

Graduates from Jamaica Plain were:

Charlie Martin and Jeffrey Smith

### JAFFER GRADUATES FROM COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL

Benjamin Jaffer of Jamaica Plain graduated from Commonwealth School on June 11, 2021.

Commonwealth School, located in Boston's Back Bay, is an independent co-ed day school enrolling approximately 140 students in grades 9 to 12. Founded by educator and philanthropist Charles Merrill, the school is noted for its intellectual energy, connections to the city, and robust art, music, and athletic programs, all supported by a close-knit school community. Its alumni include actor Hamish Linklater, diplomat and author Peter Galbraith, musician Evan Dando, actress and filmmaker Kasi Lemmons, and geneticist David Altshuler.

## SNA

*Continued from page 14*

### DOYLE'S

Jared Egan reported that the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) comment period has ended regarding the Doyle's proposal, which consists of housing units, a revived Doyle's Cafe, and a grocery store. He also talked about the letter that had been submitted on behalf of the SNA, which talked about affordability on the site, as well as insufficient parking

based on the zoning code, and concerns about traffic.

The SNA also briefly discussed updates on the community room, mural, and garden and park space, which are part of the community benefits from the Extra Space Storage/VITA development on Washington St. The mural process is still happening, and the community garden and park opened in late June. The community room is now under agreement between Extra Space Storage and Volunteers of America Massachusetts, who want to take over the space.

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## Ballot

*Continued from page 18*

- Bridget Nee-Walsh, South Boston
- Said Abdikarim, South End
- Ruthzee Louijeune, Hyde Park
- Kelly Bates, Hyde Park
- David Halbert, Mattapan
- Councilor Julia Mejia, Dorchester
- Roy Owens, Sr., Roxbury
- Nick Vance, Hyde Park
- Councilor Michael Flaherty, South Boston
- Jon Spillane, Beacon Hill
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# LIGHT OF DAY RECORDS HOST LOCAL MUSICIANS AT WENHAM STREET CINEMA

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH KARSON

On Saturday July 24, Aaron Bear and Jade Madrone performed at the Wenham Street Cinema in JP. The concert was the second in a four-part outdoor concert series produced by Light of Day Records. The concerts are a collaboration between Light of Day Records and Wenham Street Cinema and seek to provide a venue for the community to gather, dance, connect, shop for records, and most importantly, enjoy live music. Additionally, Light of Day Records is putting on these concerts as a way to celebrate and support local musicians. Guests are encouraged to donate \$10 dollars to the artists and a portion of all record sales go to them as well.

The two remaining concerts will take place on Saturday, August 28 (DJ Al Watkins and The Foundation Movement) and Saturday, September 25 (Genie Santiago and S6 Sol). Both concerts will take place from 4-7 p.m. and Wenham Street Cinema can be found at 23 Wenham St., JP. For more information please follow Light of Day Records and Wenham Street Cinema on Instagram.



Lucca Amador Ricardo Montgomery; Javier Amador-Peña; Kelsey Munger; and Molly McGowan.



Performer Jade Madrone.



Christine Schepeler; Clayton Reese; Trevor Sponseller; and John Chaplin.



Korinn Koslofsky; Lauren Sava; and Sam King.



Jay Hurst; Fen Way; Trinity Anderson; and John Axiotakis.




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